

20 Questions You Can Ask

1. How did you get this idea?
2. What was the most interesting background reading you did?
3. Which are your control factors/your variables? What is/are the difference(s) between your control & experimental groups(s)?
4. Where did you get you animals (bacteria, plants, etc.)?
5. What skills did you acquire to do this project?
6. What help did you receive from others (students, adults, teachers, family, etc.)?
7. How many times did you repeat this experiments and what changes, if any, did you make?
8. Why did you choose the statistical test used and what do your results mean?
9. Explain this graph to me.
10. What is the most important thing you found out in doing this experiment?
11. What changes would you make if you continue this project next year?
12. What application does this project have to your/my life?
13. Is this a continuation of an earlier year's project and has a full year's work been added to that done previously?
14. How does this experiment conform to the scientific method?
15. What experimental errors are in your project and how did you correct for them?
16. How did you determine the sample size to be used?
17. Explain your procedure to me.
18. How does your project differ from others you researched?
19. Where was your project done?
20. What does this (some project detail) mean?

GUIDELINES SUMMARY (adapted from a variety of sources)

Judges should look for sound evidence of:

- the scientific method (proper variables and controls) creativity
- thoroughness (lots of data)
- validity of conclusions
- quality of written presentation
- quality of visual presentation